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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 26, 2007

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MANUFACTURER OF FICTITIOUS CHECKS PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY AND BANK FRAUD

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that HEATHER ANNE MORSHEAD, 25, of Magalia, California, pled guilty this morning to felony conspiracy and bank fraud offenses before United States District Judge Frank C. Damrell, Jr.

This case is the product of a combined investigation by the Butte County Sheriff's Department, the Chico Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and other law enforcement agencies in Northern California, specifically including state and local authorities in Glenn, Tehama, and Plumas Counties.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Michelle Rodriguez, who is prosecuting the case, from November 2006 through March 2007, MORSHEAD, working with co-conspirator JODI LYNN GARCIA, 31, of Paradise, California, and others, manufactured checks using financial information stolen from the United States mail, residential burglaries and vehicle break-ins. MORSHEAD and others, cashed stolen checks and manufactured checks using account numbers obtained from stolen financial information. The conspirators stole between \$30,000 and \$70,000 from more than 50 victim banks and financial institutions.

GARCIA pled guilty on October 1, 2007 to two federal conspiracy offenses, one count of bank fraud, and one count of aggravated identity theft. Co-conspirator HEATHER MICHELLE WILSON, 34, of Chico, California, pled guilty on September 24, 2007 to five counts of bank fraud, one count of possession of stolen United States mail and one count of conspiracy; TIFFANY ANN SABRAL, 27, of Chico, California, pled guilty on August 27, 2007 to two counts of bank fraud and one count of conspiracy; and TANYA LESLIE WELLMAN, 37, of Durham, California, pled guilty on September 14, 2007 to four counts of bank fraud and one count of conspiracy. MELISSA ANN MEIER, 19, of Chico, California is facing charges for conspiracy, aggravated identification theft, bank fraud and possession of stolen United States mail. The pending charges against MEIER are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

MORSHEAD will be sentenced by Judge Damrell on March 3, 2008. MORSHEAD is facing up to five years imprisonment for each conspiracy charge, and up to 30 years imprisonment for bank fraud. However, the actual sentence will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the

Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables, and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

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